

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1004

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the member institutions of the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association upon the celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary educational organizations which have made significant contributions, through an abiding commitment to academic excellence, to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable organization is the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association (TICUA), a pillar of educational excellence since 1956; and

WHEREAS, founded by four independent colleges as a statewide collaborative for privately-funded higher education, the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association has grown to thirty-seven main private campuses across the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, TICUA member colleges and universities educate 62,000 students annually and award bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees to nearly 14,000 students, more than any other university sector in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, providing nearly \$300 million in student financial assistance to low-income students, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association member schools create viable options for Tennesseans seeking private higher education, at little cost to the State of Tennessee; the median family income for families with students at TICUA member colleges and universities is lower than that of families with students attending any other university sector in Tennessee. TICUA member institutions also enroll more minority students than any other university sector in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, TICUA member institutions contribute more than \$6 billion annually to Tennessee's economy, employing more than 27,000 faculty and staff and creating an additional 13,500 jobs as a result of direct contracts with member campuses; and

WHEREAS, increasing college access and higher education in Tennessee, TICUA has championed the cause of student choice, enabling students to attend the Tennessee college or university that best fits their educational and social needs; and

WHEREAS, for the past 50 years, TICUA member schools have been a bastion of excellence in academics and in life, molding young minds into the scholars and leaders of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body find it appropriate to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association upon the celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, commend its commitment to higher education for all people, regardless of color and socio-economic status, applaud its meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.